

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information recording medium comprising:
a system lead-in area;
a data lead-in area; and
5 a data area, wherein
information is recorded in the system lead-in area
in the form of embossed pits; and
a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed
pits in the system lead-in area are greater than
10 a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data
lead-in area and data area.
2. An information reproducing apparatus which
reproduces an information from an information recording
medium comprising a system lead-in area, a data lead-in
15 area, and a data area, wherein information is recorded
in the system lead-in area in the form of embossed pits
and a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed
pits in the system lead-in area are greater than
a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data
20 lead-in area and data area, the apparatus comprising:
a level slice unit which detects a signal from the
system lead-in area of the information recording medium
in accordance with a level slice technique, and
a partial response likelihood technique unit which
25 detects a signal from at least one of the data lead-in
area and data area in accordance with a partial
response likelihood technique.

3. An information recording and/or reproducing apparatus which records and/or reproduces a signal using an information recording medium comprising a system lead-in area; a data lead-in area; and a data area, wherein information is recorded in the system lead-in area in the form of embossed pits; and a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed pits in the system lead-in area are greater than a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data lead-in area and data area, the apparatus comprising:

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a level slice unit which detects a signal from the system lead-in area of the information recording medium in accordance with a level slice technique, and

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a partial response likelihood technique unit which detects a signal from at least one of the data lead-in area and data area in accordance with a partial response likelihood technique.